

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 BONN 01221 211109Z
ACTION SS-25

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FM AMEMBASSY BONN
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INFO USMISSION USBERLIN IMMEDIATE
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C O N F I D E N T I A L BONN 01221

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PFOR PGOV WB OVIP (MONDALE, WALTER F.)
SUBJECT: WORKING VISIT OF THE VICE PRESIDENT TO
EUROPE AND JAPAN: INSPECTION OF BERLIN WALL

REF: USBER 189

1. THE EMBASSY AGREES WITH MISSION BERLIN THAT IT
WOULD NOT BE DESIRABLE FOR FOREIGN MINISTER GENSCHER
TO ACCOMPANY THE VICE PRESIDENT ON HIS VISIT TO THE
BERLIN WALL, IF THIS CAN BE AVOIDED WITH A MINIMUM OF
UNHAPPINESS ON GENSCHER'S PART.

2. IT IS PERFECTLY NORMAL FOR GENSCHER TO GO WITH THE
VICE PRESIDENT TO BERLIN, EVEN THOUGH THE SOVIETS WILL
UNDOUBTEDLY COMPLAIN AS THEY DID IN MAY 1975, WHEN HE
ACCOMPANIED SECRETARY KISSINGER TO BERLLIN. (USBER
993 OF MAY 22, 1975, REPORTS THE PRESS STATEMENT BY
SOVIET AMBASSADOR ABRASIMOV THAT THE GENSCHER VISIT WAS
A "CLEAR-CUT VIOLATION OF THE QA.") SO FAR ONLY THE
EAST GERMANS HAVE PROTESTED GENSCHER'S MEETING IN BERLIN
YESTERDAY WITH FRENCH FOREIGN MINISTER DE GURININGAUD.
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THE SOVIETS MAY, HOWEVER, FOLLOW SUIT, GIVEN THEIR
DEMARCHES IN PARIS BEFORE THE VISIT.

3. WE WILL OF COURSE WISH TO REJECT ANY SOVIET
COMPLAINT AS QUICKLY AND AS CURTLY AS POSSIBLE. ON THE
OTHER HAND, GENSCHER'S ROLE IN THE VISIT NEED NOT BE
A DEMONSTRATIVE ONE, NOR SHOULD IT APPEAR THAT HE IS

SOMEHOW PLAYING THE ROLE OF HOST TO THE VICE PRESIDENT. IN ADDITION, GENSCHER'S PRESENCE AT THIS EVENT WOULD PERMIT HIM TO UPSTAGE THE GOVERNING MAYOR.

4. AS USBER NOTES, THE STOP AT THE WALL WILL BE A MAJOR FILM AND PHOTO OPPORTUNITY. IF THE CAPTIONS ON THE PHOTOGRAPHS COULD READ THAT THE VICE PRESIDENT WAS SHOWING THE WALL TO THE FOREIGN MINISTER, THAT WOULD BE FINE. SOME OF THE GERMAN PRESS WILL BE MORE LIKELY TO WORD IT THE OTHER WAY AROUND.

5. WE DO NOT CONSIDER THE ISSUE SO VITAL AS TO REQUIRE A SHOWDOWN WITH GENSCHER ON IT. IF, HOWEVER, THE MOTORCADE CAR ASSIGNMENTS ARE WITHIN US CONTROL, WE FULLY ENDORSE THE USBER RECOMMENDATION THAT ONLY THE GOVERNING MAYOR AND AMBASSADOR STOESEL ACCOMPANY THE VICE PRESIDENT ON THE DRIVE FROM THE AIRPORT TO THE RATHAUS, WITH THE EN ROUTE STOP AT THE WALL, AND THAT GENSCHER GO IN ANOTHER CAR DIRECTLY TO THE RATHAUS. GENSCHER COULD OF COURSE ACCOMPANY THE VICE PRESIDENT ON THE RETURN TRIP FROM THE RATHAUS TO THE AIRPORT.

6. IF THIS RECOMMENDATION IS APPROVED, WE WILL EXPLAIN THE PLAN TO GENSCHER'S OFFICE HERE IN AN EFFORT TO AVOID MISUNDERSTANDING.

7. ACTION REQUESTED: URGENT GUIDANCE.
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Message Attributes

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